



Canadian Association  
of Research Libraries  
Association des bibliothèques  
de recherche du Canada

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

**Giving Google Scholar a run for its money?**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 2, 2011

**OTTAWA** – According to the latest *CARL Statistiques 2008-2009 Statistics*, CARL libraries' push to provide online resources is paying off.

Twenty-one of CARL's 31 member libraries that reported the number of searches conducted in the libraries' online databases and services recorded a total of just fewer than 125.5 million searches in the 2008-2009 academic year.

In addition to this, with increased purchasing of electronic materials of 18% over last year (more than 11.9 million monographic and serials titles combined), 28 member libraries engaged in digitization initiatives, 25 member libraries offering chat reference services, and the number of electronic reference transactions up by 21% over last year, CARL member libraries are clearly embracing the digital age.

"Research libraries are in the business of adapting to change," stated Mme Sylvie Belzile, Directrice générale, Service des bibliothèques et archives, Université de Sherbrooke, and Chair of the CARL Demonstrating Value Subcommittee. "Our strong focus on changing user needs is what drives research libraries to provide access to current, knowledgeable research information with the least amount of effort to the patron as possible. In addition, providing effective study space, teaching, learning, and research support, we are definitely geared toward helping our students and researchers achieve success."

The *Statistiques 2008-2009 Statistics* provides information for Canada's 28 major academic research libraries plus 3 national organizations; Library and Archives Canada, the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) and the Library of Parliament. Combined, these institutions held 77 205 990 volumes, acquired access to 1 290 546 serials titles, and spent \$283 158 562 to purchase materials in 2008-2009.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mme Sylvie Belzile  
Chair, CARL Committee on Effectiveness  
Measures and Statistics  
Sylvie.belzile@uSherbrooke.ca  
819.821.8000 x 63556

Ms. Katherine McColgan  
Program Coordinator, CARL  
Katherine.McColgan@uottawa.ca  
613.562.5800 x 2768

CARL's Statistics are available online at <http://www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/statistics/statistics-e.html>